

## **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Call for Proposal**

*Call for proposals under the Regular Funding Cycle  
In the Philippines*

**Call Opens: 10 September 2021**

**Deadline for Submissions: 22 October 2021 before 5 p.m. (New York time)  
(6 weeks)**

### **1. About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, the WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women's participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society organizations, particularly in grassroots women's organizations, with the required financial and technical support.

The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 400 civil society organizations and is present in 20 countries or group of countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently European Union (EU), Germany, Canada and Austria), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently International Civil Society Action Network for women's rights, peace and security (ICAN), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Action Aid and Women's Refugee Commission).

UN Women acts as the WPHF's Technical Secretariat at the global level. UN Women also acts as Management Entity for civil society organizations where UN Women has a country presence.

## 2. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in **Philippines**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

The Philippines has a robust framework of national and regional policies and laws for the advancement of Women, Peace and Security (WPS). In 2010, the Philippines was the first country in Asia to launch a National Action Plan on WPS. The second National Action Plan on WPS (2014-2016) further advanced Gender and Development priorities and women's involvement in peacebuilding. The country is currently implementing its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2017-2022). The overall goal of the National Action Plan is to ensure the expansion of women's roles in peace and security. In addition to the landmark National Action Plans on WPS, the Philippines has been at the forefront of translating the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to national legislation through the Magna Carta of Women Act (Republic Act No.9710). In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), a Regional Action Plan on WPS was launched in October 2020. With support from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, efforts are currently underway for the adoption of a national and regional action plan on Youth, Peace and Security in compliance with UNSCR 2250. In addition, the National Action Plan against COVID-19 provides a focus on health safety, economic recovery, and guidelines to 'recover as one' in order to ensure that no one is left behind in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic, and ensuring the needs of women and girls are met.

Women meaningfully participated in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front both in formal negotiations and parallel peacebuilding efforts. The peace agreement boasts several gender-oriented provisions and saw the first female chief negotiator -leading the Philippine government's negotiating team- to sign a major peace accord.

However, significant constraints persist for women's inclusive participation beyond the peace process including limited women's participation in security sector reform and slow progress in establishing transitional justice processes with defined women's roles, the ongoing culture of violence, impunity, clan-wars, and the intense conflict risks perpetuating patriarchal attitudes towards women. In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), although there are women in key government and political positions and the Bangsamoro Women's Commission has been established, the legislative, policy and programmatic agendas of the transitional governance institutions are currently not reflecting the needs and priorities of diverse groups of women and girls, and women's voices and leadership from the community level up are needed to inform these agendas and actions. Especially in Mindanao, women and children constitute a majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and are vulnerable to violence and human rights abuses, economic distress and marginalization, and deep-rooted social uncertainty.

Outside of BARMM, women's engagement in conflict prevention and peacebuilding requires sustained support to mitigate the impact of communal tensions and/or other conflict dynamics. Furthermore, ongoing combat operations against local terrorist groups, horizontal conflicts, shrinking spaces for human rights defenders and CSOs as well as the COVID-19 pandemic have had an immense impact on the situation of women, women's rights and women-led organizations. As COVID-19 brings health and economic devastation to the country, there is a risk of a backslide of peace gains including women's opportunities to lead in conflict-prevention and decision-making in the country. Traditional gender roles have been reinforced and women's rights are backsliding. Throughout the whole country, the pandemic has led to an increase in psychosocial stress disorders, gender-based violence and domestic violence. In addition, the pandemic has exacerbated existing lines of conflict in the form of religious, ethnic and other community-based tensions. The economic devastation due to the pandemic further worsened the funding situation of Women's rights organizations (WROs).

While progress has been made toward meaningful and lasting peace in the Philippines, the country is at a critical juncture with regards to the transitional phase in the BARMM, ongoing conflicts as well as in maintaining the health and vibrancy of civil society and women's groups in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the lead up to the 2022 elections.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on increasing women's participation in advocating for and ensuring accountability on the WPS agenda as well as on enhancing decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.

This call for proposals also provides the opportunity for civil society organizations, working on the implementation of the WPS agenda in Philippines, to reinforce their institutional capacities. It is encouraged for proposals to ensure gender is mainstreamed throughout all stages of the programme cycle. Proposals are also expected to identify how the application organization will utilize the grant to support coordination objectives, including coordination with other WPS actors.

Two streams of funding are available as detailed below – Institutional Funding (Stream 1) and Programmatic Funding (Stream 2). For applications to the Programmatic Funding Stream, joint proposals are encouraged. A joint proposal under the Programmatic Funding Stream may consist of a lead organization in partnership with an implementing organization. The lead organization must be formally registered as detailed below. If an implementing organization is not formally registered, it is encouraged to utilize the grant in part to formally register the organization. Funding proposals should identify the steps that will be undertaken to obtain registration of an informal organization as part of their capacity strengthening approach.

Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, conflict, migratory status, HIV status, among others, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the impact statements of the respective WPHF funding stream that the organization chooses to apply to:

**Programmatic funding stream (select one of the below focus):**

- **WPHF Impact area 1:** *Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments.*

**OR**

- **WPHF Impact area 2:** *Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.*

**AND/OR**

- **Institutional funding stream:** *to reinforce the institutional capacity of civil society organizations working on the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Philippines.*

Please read through the WPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework and indicators in Section 8 below.

### 3. Duration of Grants

All civil society organizations can apply for a project which would end by December 2022.

### 4. Location

Projects should be implemented in the following location(s): Philippines

### 5. Funding streams and amounts

The WPHF will grant around 1,000,000 USD to the Philippines. The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women's organizations in fragile settings, through two (2) funding streams:

#### **Funding stream 1: Institutional funding: from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD**

This funding stream will provide institutional funding to local civil society organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will aim at financing a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity. The purpose of this funding stream IS NOT to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity. This funding stream is not open to joint applications.

#### **Funding stream 2: Programmatic funding: from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD**

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the WPHF Impact Area 1: Enabling Environment for Women Peace and Security (WPS) or WPHF Impact Area 2: Conflict Prevention. This funding stream is open to joint proposals from lead organizations together with implementing organizations. Lead organizations must be legally registered. Implementing organizations may be informal organizations. An application under this Stream between a lead organization and an informal organization is encouraged to identify how the grant will support formal registration of the informal organization.

Please select one of the two impact areas you would like to apply for programmatic funding.

**An organization can only apply one time either to one or both streams. Organizations who will apply for both streams will need to submit two applications packages based on the requirements and related templates of each stream.**

### 6. Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process

#### 6.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?

International<sup>1</sup>, national and local women- led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, are eligible to apply. Grassroots and local community-based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint projects are allowed and encouraged.

To be considered a "Women's Rights or Feminist Organization," the organization's official mission/vision statement must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organization must aim to address the underlying

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<sup>1</sup> Only if registered at the national level.

drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, and work to transform these.

“Women-led organization” must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

To be considered “Youth rights”, the organization’s official mission/vision must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing the rights of youth.

“Youth-led organization” must be headed by a youth as defined by the country/organization

Other CSOs must demonstrate experience in addressing violence against women and girls, gender inequalities and/or women’s rights.

The following are NOT eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention;
- Organizations proposing an intervention in a country different from the eligible country;
- Lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation;
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities and Education institutions

### **6.2. Do I need to be a legally registered entity/organization to apply?**

The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation. Grassroots, local and women’s organizations that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant under Stream 2.

A proof of legal registration (or legal status) is a required attachment for any grant application. Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

For applications under Stream 2, only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered but have to be civil society organizations (non-profit and non-governmental). Implementing partners that are not registered are encouraged to address the prospect of becoming a legally registered organization with the support of the funding grant to strengthen their institutional capacity.

### **6.3. Can my project cover several countries?**

No, projects can only be implemented in one single country. Multi-country proposals are not eligible.

### **6.4. May I submit more than one application?**

No, organizations (either as lead or implementing partner) may not submit more than one application per funding stream. If an organization appears in more than one application in the same funding stream, only one project may be considered as eligible.

**6.5. Can more organizations apply jointly?**

Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria.

For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application in the appropriate section in the proposal template. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

**6.6. May I apply for funding for an ongoing initiative or project?**

Yes, the WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

**6.7. What are the requirements for project design?**

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF Impact area 1 for institutional funding and WPHF Impact Area 1 or 2 for programmatic funding as outlined in Section 3.

***Impact area 1 for Institutional Funding: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments***

Required impact indicators (select at least two):

- 1.1. Average number of months organization can be sustained as a result of institutional funding
- 1.2. Development of risk management and/or contingency plans or strategies for organization
- 1.3. Types (and number) of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations

**OR**

***Impact area 1 for Programmatic Funding: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments.***

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one)

- 1.1. Number/Percentage of supported CSOs involved in NAP1325 design, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation
- 1.2. Development of risk management and/or contingency plans or strategies for organization
- 1.3. Types (and number) of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations.

**OR**

***Impact area 2 for Programmatic Funding: Increased meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response.***

Required Impact Indicators (select at least one)

- 2.1. Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in conflict prevention processes and response.
- 2.2. Number and types of conflict prevention mechanisms that are gender sensitive.

#### **6.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?**

Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

#### **6.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?**

An information session will be organized with prospective applicants on 23 September 2021 online organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please email: [rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org](mailto:rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org) and CC: [riza.torrado@unwomen.org](mailto:riza.torrado@unwomen.org) by 22 September 2021.

### **7. Where, when and how to apply for the Call for Proposals?**

- The deadline for submission of proposals is **22 October 2021 before 5 p.m. (New York time)**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Applications are accepted in **English**. Only applications in these languages will be accepted.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- Application packages should be emailed to [rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org](mailto:rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org) and CC: [riza.torrado@unwomen.org](mailto:riza.torrado@unwomen.org)
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as a package.
- The UN Women Country Office will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please **DO NOT** resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.
- The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note, that questions contained in this guidance note will be responded to. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions. In addition, an **information session** for prospective applicants online will be organized on 23 September 2021. If you would like to participate, please register here: [rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org](mailto:rosemarie.delacruz@unwomen.org) and CC: [riza.torrado@unwomen.org](mailto:riza.torrado@unwomen.org)

#### **7.1. Required Components of the Application Package**

Applicants are required to use the WPHF templates provided. Please note, incomplete applications or use of different templates will not be considered.

- WPHF Proposal Template (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
- Results Framework (Proposal Template Annex: A)
- Project Budget (Proposal Template Annex: B)

AND

- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

**DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.**

#### **7.2. Evaluation Criteria**

As you write your application, please keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

### **Stream 1: Institutional Funding**

#### Project objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific outcome in the results framework (Impact Area 1)
- Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities
- Definition of clear objectives and expected results and outputs focused on strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained
- Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures

#### Budget:

- Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%)
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

### **Stream 2: Programmatic Funding**

#### Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific impact in its results framework.
- Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
- Ensuring meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, conflict, migratory status, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
- Partnership and capacity development of local women's organizations and/or a clear capacity building plan for CSO partners in place to deliver programme results. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

#### Programme management and monitoring:

- Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
- Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame.
- Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

#### Budget:

- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%).

Sustainability and national ownership:

- Promotion of national and local ownership in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players.
- Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

**8. Useful Resources**

- The WPHF's website [www.wphfund.org](http://www.wphfund.org)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: WPHF Impact Area 1 \(Institutional Funding\)](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: WPHF Impact Area 1 \(Programmatic Funding\)](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: WPHF Impact Area 2.](#)
- [Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar](#)
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- The WPHF's page on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office's Gateway: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/GAI00>
- The WPHF's Twitter account: [@wphfund](https://twitter.com/wphfund)
- M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>
- M&E Standards and Guidelines. The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian [http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc\\_id=22](http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22)